

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

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TAGS: PFOR, PFOR, RQ, US, UN

SUBJ: CALL BY PUERTO RICAN SECRETARY OF STATE ALBORS AND
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE AGRAIT: LAW OF THE SEA (LOS)

1. ON AUGUST 10 PUERTO RICAN SECRETARY OF STATE ALBORS AND
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE AGRAIT CALLED ON GOVERNOR SCRANTON
AND AMBASSADOR BENNETT TO DISCUSS PUERTO RICAN VIEWS ON THE
LOS CONFERENCE AND IN PARTICULAR THE QUESTION OF OFF SHORE
RESOURCES. ALBORS REVIEWED RELATED LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH
SUBSTANTIATE, HE SAID, PUERTO RICO'S CLAIMS TO ITS OFF
SHORE ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

2. ALBORS SAID THAT RECOGNITION OF PUERTO RICAN RIGHTS TO ITS
OFF SHORE RESOURCES COULD BE ACHIEVED IN A NUMBER OF WAYS:

A) BY ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED US AMENDMENT TO THE TRANSITIONAL
PROVISION IN REVISED SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT, WHICH PUERTO RICO
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DOES NOT CONSIDER IDEAL BECAUSE RIGHTS OR OWNERSHIP OF OFF

SHORE ECONOMIC RESOURCES WOULD NOT BE VESTED IN PUERTO RICO
PROPER;

B) INCLUSION OF "ASSOCIATED STATES" IN THE DEFINITION OF
"COASTAL STATES" IN THE LOS TREATY;

C) OBSERVER OR SIGNATORY STATUS FOR PUERTO RICO AT THE LOS
CONFERENCE.

3. IT WAS ALSO REQUESTED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH
BE ALLOWED TO SEE AND DISCUSS THE DRAFT REPLY TO GOVERNOR
HERNANDEZ COLON'S JULY 3 LETTER TO THE SECRETARY BEFORE IT IS
DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR.

4. ALBORS AND AGRAIT BOTH EMPHASIZED THE POSSIBLE USE TO
WHICH CUBA COULD PUT LACK OF ANY SATISFACTORY RECOGNITION OF
PUERTO RICO'S RIGHTS TO ITS OFF SHORE ECONOMIC RESOURCES DURING
THE COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO.

5. ALBORS INFORMED GOVERNOR SCRANTON THAT HE WILL DISCUSS THE
ABOVE ISSUES WITH UNDER SECRETARY MAW AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SHLAUDEMAN ON AUGUST 11.

6. GOVERNOR SCRANTON PROMISED TO REPORT ALBORS AND AGRAIT'S
VIEWS, ASSURED THEM OF HIS INTEREST IN THE MATTER AND
STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF A RESOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES. HE
DISCLAIMED, HOWEVER, ANY PARTICULAR EXPERTISE IN THE HIGHLY
COMPLEX LOS QUESTIONS AND STATED THAT IT IS AMBASSADOR LEARSON
WHO HAS THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOS MATTERS IN NEW YORK.
GOVERNOR SCRANTON FURTHER EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY OF INSURING
THAT WASHINGTON IS FULLY AND ACCURATELY INFORMED CONCERNING
THE PUERTO RICAN POSITION ON LOS MATTERS. HE QUERIED ALBORS
ABOUT APPARENT INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN PUERTO RICO'S
COMMONWEALTH STATUS AND THE PR POSITION ON OFF SHORE RESOURCES.
HE ALSO ASKED IF THE PUERTO RICAN STANCE ON THE LOS TREATY MIGHT
NOT PROVIDE AN IMPETUS TO THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE
MOVEMENT. IN BOTH CASES THE REPLY WAS NEGATIVE.
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